

HTLV-II tax protein; and

c. antibodies specific to at least one of HTLV-I or HTLV-II tax protein; and, if the test for at least one of (a), (b), or (c) is positive, determining that the donor or potential donor is a carrier of a disease or condition related to at least one of HTLV-I or HTLV-II infection.

12. (New) The method according to claim 11 wherein the donors or potential donors had not been tested for antibodies to at least one of HTLV-I or HTLV-II.

13. (New) The method according to claim 11 wherein said testing comprises subjecting each sample from the donors or potential donors to a test for the present of DNA which encodes at least one of HTLV-I or HTLV-II tax protein, in the absence of any screening test specifically provided to test for infection with at least one of HTLV-I or HTLV-II.